REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are active in the present application. Claims 3-6 have been amended to remove multiple dependency. Claims 9-12 are new claims. Support for the new claims is found in the original claims. No new matter is added. An action on the merits and allowance of claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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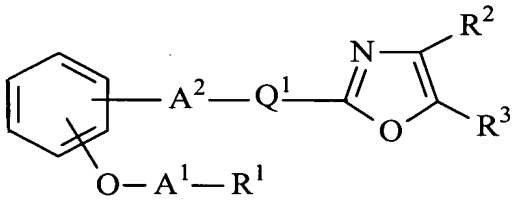
IN THE CLAIMS

--3. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 1 [or 2], wherein the nonprostanoid prostaglandin I_2 agonist is a compound of the following general formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



(I)

[wherein R^1 is carboxy or protected carboxy,

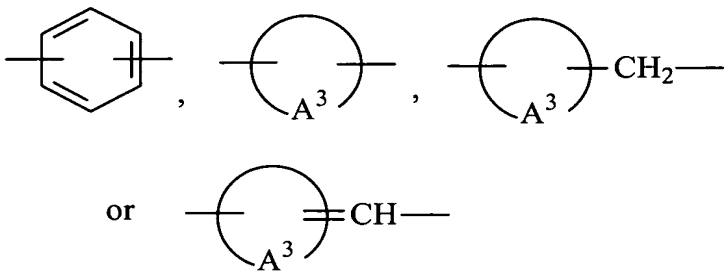
R^2 is aryl which may optionally have one or more suitable substituents,

R^3 is aryl which may optionally have one or more suitable substituents,

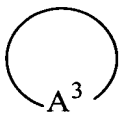
A^1 is lower alkylene,

A^2 is a single bond or lower alkylene and

$-Q^1-$ is

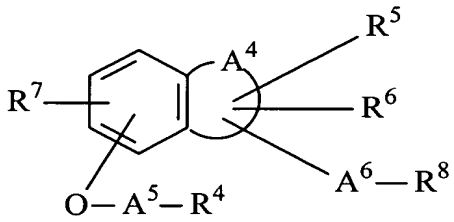


(in which



represents cyclo(lower)alkane or cyclo(lower)alkene, which respectively may optionally have one or more suitable substituents)].

4. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 1 [or 2], wherein the nonprostanoid prostaglandin I_2 agonist is a compound of the following general formula (II) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



(II)

[wherein R^4 is carboxy or protected carboxy,

R^5 is hydrogen, hydroxy or protected hydroxy,

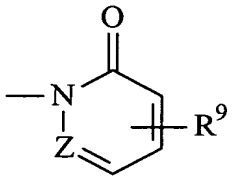
R^6 is hydrogen, hydroxy, protected hydroxy, lower alkyl or halogen,

R^7 is hydrogen or halogen,

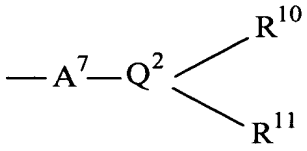
A^5 is lower alkylene,

A^6 is a single bond or lower alkylene and

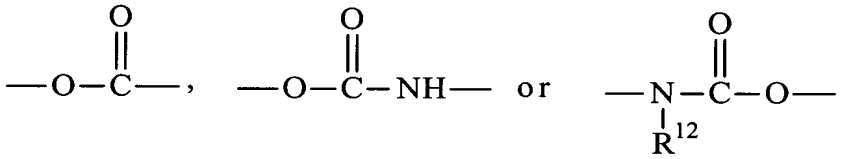
$-R^8$ is



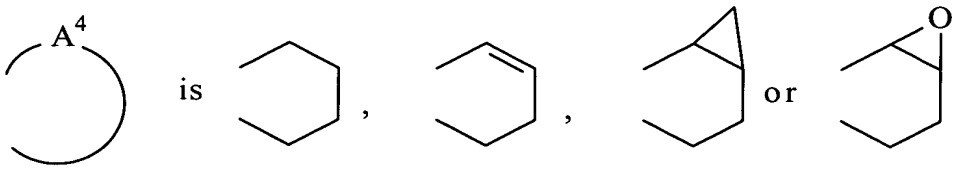
(in which R^9 is mono(or di or tri)aryl(lower)alkyl and Z is N or CH) or



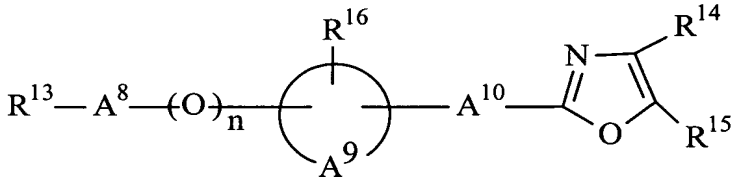
(in which $-A^7-$ is



(in which R^{12} is hydrogen or lower alkyl), Q^2 is N or CH, R^{10} is aryl and R^{11} is aryl), and



5. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 1 [or 2], wherein the nonprostanoid prostaglandin I_2 agonist is a compound of the following general formula (III) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof



(III)

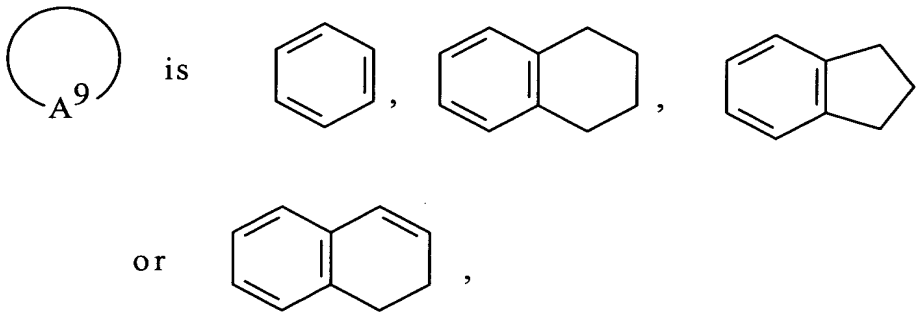
[wherein R^{13} is carboxy or protected carboxy,

R^{14} is aryl which may optionally have one or more suitable substituents,

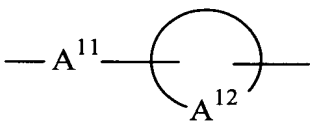
R^{15} is aryl which may optionally have one or more suitable substituents,

R^{16} is hydrogen, lower alkyl, hydroxy or aryl,

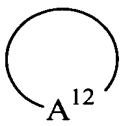
A^8 is lower alkylene,



-A^{10}- is



(in which -A^{11}- is a single bond, -CH_2- or -CO-,



represents cyclo(C5-C8)alkene, cyclo(C7-C8)alkane, bicycloheptane, bicycloheptene, tetrahydrofuran, tetrahydrothiophene, azetidine, pyrrolidine or piperidine, which respectively may optionally have one or more suitable substituents) or -X-A^{13}- (in which –X– is –O–, –S–, or –N(R^{17})- (R^{17} being hydrogen, lower alkyl or acyl) and A^{13} is lower alkylene which may optionally have one or more suitable substituents) and n is 0 or 1].

6. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 1 [or 2], wherein the nonprostanoid prostaglandin I_2 agonist is

(1) [3-[[(1S)-2-(4,5-diphenyloxazol-2-yl)-2-cyclohexen-l-yl]methyl]phenoxy]acetic acid,

(2) [3-[[(1S)-2-(4,5-diphenyloxazol-2-yl)-2-cyclopenten-l-yl]methyl]phenoxy]acetic acid,

(3) [(2R)-5-(carboxymethoxy)-2-hydroxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphth-2-yl]methyl]N,N-diphenylcarbamate,

(4) (1R)-1-[(2R)-2-(4,5-diphenyloxazol-2-yl)pyrrolidin-l-yl]-5-carboxymethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene or

(5) [3-[[(2R)-2-(4,5-diphenyloxazol-2-yl)pyrrolidin-l-yl]methyl]phenoxy]acetic acid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claims 9-12 (New).--